sidered to be dew" (p. 170). It would seem that the word, dew, might better be left in its general connotation to cover all examples of wet lawns, etc., occurring without visible precipitation. The review would extend his cervical region to the extent of expressing the opinion that most cases of wet feet incurred on summer mornings are the result of "botanical dew," not of "physical dew." It is realized that this opinion does not seem to be widely held, but that, it is suggested, is merely because botanists have accepted the physicists' word for it.

In these references to minutiae, there is no wish to withhold from the Meyer and Anderson a due meed of praise as a scholarly, comprehensive, and valuable text which seems certain of wide use and approval.

Rocky Mountain Trees *

ARTHUR HARMOUNT GRAVES

Reliable floras of any given region are always welcomed by the herbarium student, the trained taxonomist, or by the traveller who is botanically minded. In my own travels in this country and in Europe, I have often wished for books of this sort to which I could turn in time of need.

Although authoritative floras of the Rocky Mountain region are available, up to the time of the publication of "Rocky Mountain Trees" there has been none devoted exclusively to the trees of the region; in particular none which treats of them with regard to their silvical and ecological, as well as their purely botanical, or, rather, their morphological characters.

As the author states, "public interest in trees and forests has increased greatly in recent years." It appears that this interest is being steadily maintained, with a regularly mounting curve, and that, therefore, with the passing years, there will be an even greater demand for books of this kind.

* Rocky Mountain Trees, A Handbook of the Native Species, with Plates and Distribution Maps. Richard J. Preston, Jr. Iowa State College Press. 1940. $2.00.

Professor Preston, who is Associate Professor of Forestry in the Colorado State College, has made use of the best possible resources in the preparation of his book. For example, the plates for the conifers, with four exceptions, were made from drawings used in Sudworth's bulletins on the trees of the Rocky Mountains. The distributional maps accompanying the descriptions of each species were referred to government, experiment station and college experts. "The description of genera and species are based largely on material secured from the sources listed under the selected bibliography." A point which appeals strongly to the writer is that the descriptions include not only the botanical characters of the species, but also silvical characters, such as habitats, tolerance, in many cases the character of the root system, enemies, reproduction and associates.

The following states and parts of states are included in the author's delimitations of the Rocky Mountain region; Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, extreme western Texas, and the Black Hills of South Dakota. Further there is a list of trees found in each state. A key to the genera follows, and throughout the book, keys to the various species within certain genera.

In addition, there is a description of the six life zones or belts occurring in the Rocky Mountain region, as well as several pages devoted to the explanation of "tree characters." A glossary of botanical terms and a bibliography and index conclude the book.

Further, to conform to the title of the book, not only are the trees of the above mentioned states included, but also those of the adjacent Rocky Mountain region of Canada, even extending into Alaska—truly a vast area. Such species (which do not occur in the U. S. Rockies at all, but extend from the eastern U. S. into the Canadian Rockies) are, for example, the Balsam Fir, the White and the Black Spruces, the Jack Pine, Eastern Larch, etc. Thus 252 species representing 85 genera and 40 families have been treated, as well as numerous varieties.

This review is being written in a far off, little-known spot on the Maine coast, where no reference books are available, but we believe that we are not making a rash statement in saying that this number of tree species (252) is several times greater than the number of those in all Northern Europe.

Enough has been said to show that the book is a great asset not only to the forester and tree lover in general, but also to all tree-minded persons who are travelling in the Rockies.

The Flower Family Album *

George T. Hastings

A great help to the beginner in plant study is to know the characteristics of a few of the larger families of plants. This knowledge will serve as an introduction to a surprisingly large number of the plants he meets; the individual plant may be a stranger but he will know its family relationships. There has been little to help in learning these characteristics. Here is a book intended to show the families to which four or five hundred wild and cultivated plants belong. Conversely, the book gives the characteristics of fifty of the larger and commoner plant families, making it possible to place at least three-fourths of the wild flowers and a larger proportion of cultivated ones.

On each page of the book are drawings of from six to ten members of a particular family, showing clearly the appearance of the plants and their comparative sizes. A few pages cover two or three small families; for some of the larger families there are several pages—four each for the Lily and Buttercup, two each for the Iris, Pink, Pea, Mint and Nightshade and ten for the Composite. The drawings, or "portraits" by Gretchen Fischer Harshbarger are clear and accurate. On the pages opposite the drawings are the descriptions of the families and of the plants shown. The descriptions are non-technical but complete enough for the purpose of the book.

Printed by the offset process on long pages, with stiff paper covers, the book is attractive in appearance and will be a delight to the gardener, flower lover and amateur botanist.

* The Flower Family Album, Helen Field Fischer. Box 5, Shenandoah, Iowa. 1940. $1.50.